

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Survey No. B-4862

1. Name

Historic 1 - 27 North Port Street
and / common

2. Location

street & number 1- 27 North Port Street
city, town Baltimore
state & zip code Maryland 21231 county

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	X occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
X building(s)	X private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	X private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	X yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name
street & number
city, town state & zip code telephone

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore City Land Records liber
street & number Clarence Mitchell Courthouse folio
city, town Baltimore State Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title
date federal state county local
depository for survey records
city, town state & zip code

7. Description

Condition

☐ excellent
☒ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check One

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check One

☒ original site
☐ moved:
date of move: _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The east side of the unit block of N. Port St. is developed with two different rows of two-story, two-bay wide late Italianate style brick houses with shed roofs. 1-13 N. Port St., built in c. 1890, have wooden, scroll-sawn, bracketed cornices. 15-27 N. Port St., built just after 1892 when the use of wood was outlawed for cornices, have similarly-styled sheet metal cornices. Only two of the houses retain their original brick facades, which were originally painted; the rest have been covered with formstone or aluminum siding.

1-13 N. Port St. is a row of seven late Italianate-style houses with wooden cornices. The houses are two stories in height, 12' wide and occupy lots 68'10" deep. Each house is three small rooms deep and there is no backbuilding. The houses are constructed in running bond and were originally painted. Each house has a single hooded chimney located at the rear corner of the house. The shed roofs are capped by a continuous wooden cornice consisting of a crown molding supported by three long scroll-sawn brackets decorated with grooves, connected by a lower molding strip (now gone), and ending with a distinct trefoil pattern. The frieze panel, which also serves as ventilation for the attic, is decorated with a top row of sunburst shapes and a bottom row of arabesques, all created with a jig saw. 1-7 N. Port St. no longer have their cornices; they were removed when the formstone was put on in the 1950s or 1960s.

The tall, narrow window and door openings have segmentally arched brick lintels and plain tympanums, with brick sills. None of the original 2/2 sash survive, but most windows are filled with 1/1 replacement sash as well as some 6/6 sash. Doorways have single-light transoms, which were originally filled with stained glass bearing the house number (some of which survive). A few of the original Arts-and-Crafts-style doors also survive, with tall, narrow vertical glass panels framed at top and bottom by small square or rectangular panels, all framed in narrow molding strips. The houses sit on low basements, lit by a double-light sash. Each house is reached by two or three brick, concrete, or marble steps.

15-27 N. Port St. is a row of seven houses, two stories in height, 11'8" wide and occupy lots 68'10" deep. Each house is three small rooms deep and there is no backbuilding. The houses are constructed in running bond and were always painted and evidence remains to suggest that the basement areas were painted white, to imitate the marble used in more expensive houses. Each house has a single hooded chimney located at the rear of the house. The shed roofs are capped by late-Italianate-style sheet metal cornices with three long scroll-sawn brackets supporting the crown molding, that connect to a lower molding strip and end with a distinct trefoil pattern. After the use of wood was outlawed for cornices in 1892, sheet metal became the predominant material used and in the 1890s the form of the cornices generally followed that of the contemporary late-Italianate style. In this particular case, the builder of the row first built 1-13 N. Port, with wooden cornices, but then when he completed the row in 1892, he had to use sheet metal.

The door and window openings have segmentally arched brick lintels, with plain tympanums. The sills are brick. All windows have 1/1 replacement sash, except for 21 N. Port, which has 6/6 replacement sash. Doorways have single-light transoms, which were originally filled with stained glass bearing the house number (some of which survive). A few of the original Arts-and-Crafts-style doors also survive, with tall, narrow vertical glass panels framed at top and bottom by small square or rectangular panels, all framed in narrow molding strips. The houses sit on low basements, lit by a double-light sash. Each house is reached by three brick, concrete, or marble steps.

8. Significance

Period	Area of significance	check one & justify			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theatre	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other: specify	

Specific dates c. 1890 - 1892

Builder/Architect

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

This group of late-Italianate-style houses is significant in that it represents the level of architectural stylishness achieved by many builders of small street houses in the late nineteenth century. The houses were built according to a pattern that was quite common to the city's working class neighborhoods of the period 1870 to 1910. Recognizing that workers held different levels of jobs (and pay), builders created a hierarchy of house sizes (and prices) in the new neighborhoods going up to serve the expanding factory districts ringing the harbor and northeast of the central city. Builders acquired anywhere from an eighth to a half of a city block and built 14' to 15'-wide two-story houses on the main streets, and smaller, 11' to 13'-wide two-story houses on the narrower streets bisecting the blocks. Typically, in this period, main street houses might sell for \$1,200 to \$1,500; small street houses for \$700 - \$900.

The row is especially significant for illustrating the change builders had to make in their cornices after the city passed a law in 1892 forbidding further construction of wood cornices, because of their fire hazard. As might be expected, the initial designs of the new sheet metal cornices closely followed that of the late-Italianate-style wooden ones already in use. In this particular row the builder began building with wooden cornices, but then had to switch to a sheet metal version of the form to complete his row after the new law was passed.

The land originally on which these houses are built belonged to the Patterson family as part of their 18th century estate, which also included the land given by the family to the city for Patterson Park. In the 1870s and 1880s the Patterson heirs began developing this block by leasing parcels to various builders who constructed modestly-scaled and priced housing for the mainly German immigrant families who were settling near the port-related fledgling industries of Canton. Most of the houses sold to mainly German-American semi-skilled tradesmen and laborers employed in nearby factories, who received mortgages from a variety of local building and loans, many of them sponsored by the German community.

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9. Major Bibliographic References

Mary Ellen Hayward and Charles Belfoure, *The Baltimore Rowhouse*
(New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 1999)

10. Geographic Data

Acreage of nominated property

Quadrangle name

Verbal boundary description and justification

11. Form Prepared by

name / title Dr. Mary Ellen Hayward

Organization The Alley House Project

street & number 1306 Carrollton Ave.

city, town Baltimore

date

telephone

state & zip code Maryland 21204

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of property rights.

Return to:

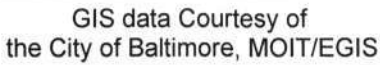
DHCP/DHCD

Maryland Historical Trust

100 Community Place

Crownsville MD 21032-2023

Baltimore East Quad.





1-13 N. Port

C-2

B-4862

1-27 N. Port St.

BACTO, MD

C. Belfrage

11/9/7

1/2

.80

103127





15-27 N. Pnt
C-2

3-4602
1-27 N. Pnt + St
BACTO 110
C. B. 1/1000
11/97
3/4



21 N. Port

C-3

B-4162

21 N. Port St.

BACTO. MD

C. Belfour

11/97

4/14

.60

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